FELLOWS AND MEMBERS ELECTED DECEMBER 7, 1933

For Fellowship:

Edward A. Atwood ..... 360 Park Avenue, Paterson, N. J.
Theodore Neustaedter ..... 27 East 93 Street
E. Gordon Stoloff ..... 1085 Park Avenue
George Thomas Pack ..... 155 East 72 Street
Harold Abramson ..... 1097 Madison Avenue
Nicholas J. Poltchaninoff ..... 35 Nathan Davis Place
William Clifford Ivins ..... 214 East Hanover Street, Trenton, N. J.
William Beverly White ..... 65 South Street, Stamford, Conn.

For Membership:

Alfred A. Schwartz ..... 7 West 71 Street

For Associates:

Robert Morris Fischer, D.D.S. ..... 73 East 90 Street
Jerome M. Schweitzer, D.D.S. ..... 643 West 246 Street
Marjorie T. Bellows, A.B. ..... 9 Greenridge Avenue, White Plains

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ALFRED FABIAN HESS

The Council of The New York Academy of Medicine expresses its profound sorrow over the death of its distinguished member, Dr. Alfred Fabian Hess.

His work has been of such signal importance in the development of American medicine, that the Academy is proud to have had among its members a man who has left behind him the reputation of having been not only a great physician, a distinguished pediatrist, an original investigator, but one who may truly be called a benefactor of mankind.

During his brief career he has earned the gratitude of the medical world, both here and abroad. As President of the Harvey Society, his leadership was characterized by an unusual devotion to, and respect for, pure and exact science. The resolutions passed by the Harvey Society include so fine a summary of his achievements, that the

Academy is ready to adopt these resolutions as an expression of its own sentiments regarding Dr. Alfred Fabian Hess.

BERNARD SACHS, *President.*

The Harvey Society learns with profound regret of the death of the distinguished President of the Society, Alfred Fabian Hess. In the lengthening list of its Presidents, none has been more devoted to its interests, none has sought more earnestly to maintain its fame, none has devoted more energy to the realization of its purposes. He exhibited his sympathetic attitude by consenting to return to a former custom of the Society to occupy his office for two successive terms. In the second of these, unexpectedly and in the full tide of his powers, his grievous loss is sustained. He has been a member since 1911 and has himself been one of its lecturers (Jan. 15, 1921).

Doctor Hess has numerous claims to the high regard of his professional colleagues. Beyond the custom of most men, his life was given solely to the interests of his calling. He knew no divided allegiance; the whole of his thought and energy exhibited extraordinary singleness of purpose. A life of contented leisure, so easily within his choice, he exchanged by preference for one of laborious days. These he consecrated to the furtherance of useful knowledge and this he placed unreservedly at the disposal of his fellow men. Two books and 225 separate contributions to journals are witness to this choice and serve as his fitting memorial.

His researches fall into two categories. There is an earlier one in which his activities were dominated by the prevailing interest in communicable diseases. His thought took, as it usually did, two directions, one social, one scientific. Problems connected with the spread of tuberculosis engaged his attention first. In the Laboratories of the Department of Health in this city he studied "The Incidence of Tubercle Bacilli in New York City Milk" (1909), an investigation which led to important recommendations for the protection, especially of infants, from infected milk. The concern which he entertained for the welfare of chil-

dren led him to suggest a plan for the institutional treatment of infants exposed to this scourge. To this end he developed the idea of "A Tuberculosis Preventorium for Infants" (1917) which led then to the realization of a Preventorium for Infants at Farmingdale (N. J.). At this period he was interested also in certain phases of other communicable diseases. In writing on "A Protective Therapy for Mumps" (1915) he discerned in the method he was proposing a solution not merely of special importance but one—and this was eminently characteristic of the penetrating quality of his reflective nature—involving a general principle, applicable to the treatment of measles and since then tested in relation to other comparable diseases.

Although he retained his interest in communicable diseases, he soon turned, at the Laboratories of the Board of Health and later in the Home for Hebrew Children and the laboratories of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University to his studies on scurvy and on rickets. Investigations on these subjects he continued to pursue with unflagging energy throughout his life. It was this field to which his main and outstanding contributions to knowledge were made. At the time of his death he was engaged in analyzing no less than six separate aspects of these problems. How extraordinarily fruitful these researches were, it is perhaps too early completely to appreciate. In number alone, their wealth bears witness to his very great industry. But meritorious in itself, industry alone would not have achieved for him his well earned fame. In more than one direction he broke new paths. The subject is so well known as to require no extended description—the relation of scurvy and rickets to the vitamins, the influence of sunlight and the seasons on the progress of the disease rickets, the importance in its treatment, of artificial light, of various foods, and of various oils, the development of non-potent into potent agents when exposed to ultra-violet rays. In these researches his prime endeavor was to extend knowledge, but his critical intelligence was content with nothing less than that pitfalls due to too early

generalization should be avoided; anti-rachitic agents he saw were not of equal value, for they exhibit differences depending on their origin and on their utilization. And in this case as in that of tuberculosis he did not lose sight of the wider prophylactic uses to which his investigations could be put; he saw to it that the general public benefitted by making practical underlying theoretical considerations.

The method by which he carried on his activities is not the least of the interesting phenomena which distinguish the ways of this gifted man. Having entertained an idea —and he had many—he tested it, first rationally, with the utmost meticulousness. He defined it carefully in words so that by observation and experiment he was in position to know precisely what it was which he wished to subject to exact analysis. Having analyzed it, he was not content unless an experiment, which to him was never more than an analogue, was genuinely illustrative of a clinical situation. If he found a solution to an initial question, he proceeded to further development or elaboration of the plan originally entertained. It was an impressive intellectual process, slow and careful procedure from step to step, which those who knew him came to appreciate and which those who knew him less intimately did not in the end escape from recognizing.

How devoted he was to the acquisition of knowledge, quite apart from its meaning for his personal career, can be discerned from a further study of his technique. His investigations forced upon him the need to rely upon methods, both chemical and physical, with which his own education and later training, had not prepared him. From the challenge of their use he did not shrink. In principle, and for his purposes, he developed a sure acquaintance with their significance. But from a personal technical utilization of them he had the good judgment to refrain. His disinterestedness in the pursuit of knowledge and his generosity in sharing his ideas are exhibited with singular clearness when he found himself in this situation. It was then that he turned to other men, suitably equipped, to

come to his aid. His insight into problems connected with the physics and chemistry of the vitamins was in fact unusually penetrating. His prophetic vision on more than one occasion forced upon reluctant associates enthusiasm sufficient to embark on researches which, without his stimulation, would not then have been undertaken. It is a general judgment that the organic chemistry of this group of substances is richer as a result of the interest which he aroused and to which he turned as the result of his clinical experience. He knew his limitations, but he knew also how to surmount them. He not only cultivated a field but he shared its cultivation with his fellows.

This description of a singular man would be incomplete if other aspects of his personality were left unmentioned. Aside from his industry, aside from his scientific insight, aside from his inventiveness, he had an unusual historical sense. Were this side of his interests not known otherwise, it would emerge from reading those chapters in his book on rickets in which he describes the history of this disease. He cared not only for knowledge of the development of ideas in regard to it, but he charged himself with the collection of the literature of this subject and has by his collection made the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine the richer. Those who were privileged to sit with him on the Committee of that Library were aware of his sensitiveness to the meaning of the march of ideas in the development of conceptions.

He was conscious also of another obligation. As a scientific man, he made the interests of scientific men his personal concern. In this city in which social intercourse among like-minded men is difficult, he made of his home a center of hospitality, a center for the discussion and exchange of ideas. That the discussions were uniformly elevated and of a high seriousness, the character of the man amply assured.

Wherever on the numerous sides of interest appropriate to the lives of medical men one looks, the death of Alfred Hess marks loss. He touched life in many of its phases; wherever he touched it, he enriched it. Without the oppor-

tunity for disciples, his intellectual vigor, his disinterestedness, his pungent personality impressed itself upon his contemporaries.

The Harvey Society is conscious of its loss. To his associates, to his friends, to his family, it expresses its deep sympathy.

JAMES W. JOBLING
WILLIAM H. PARK
ALFRED E. COHN, *Chairman*

The following resolution upon the death of Dr. Alfred F. Hess was passed by the Committee on Library at a meeting held January 9, 1934:

> The Committee on Library of The New York Academy of Medicine possessed in Doctor Alfred Fabian Hess a friend to the Library and an associate in the guidance of its activities whose comradeship they greatly valued. As a member of the Committee from 1928 to 1932, and Chairman in the last of these years, Dr. Hess' interest in the Library was constant and productive. He strengthened it as an institution and gave generously to it from his store of wisdom and of books.
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> The Committee wish to express to Mrs. Hess their sense of personal loss in the death of Dr. Hess.

ELI MOSCHCOWITZ,
Secretary of Committee on Library

DEATHS OF FELLOWS AND ASSOCIATE FELLOW OF THE ACADEMY

CHAPMAN, CHARLES FRANCIS, M.D., Mount Kisco, New York; graduated in medicine from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, in 1890; elected a Fellow of the Academy January 4, 1906; died, December 26, 1933. Dr. Chapman was a Fellow of the American Medical Association and a member of the County and State Medical Societies. He was Surgeon to Northern Westchester Hospital, Mount Kisco, and President of the Westchester County Medical Society.